



State of New Mexico

National Disaster Resilience Competition
Draft for Public Comment
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Executive Summary

The State of New Mexico is culturally and geographically diverse. Often identified as tri-cultural, our population is predominantly Anglo, Hispanic, and Native American. There are 23 federally recognized Native American Tribes in the State and nearly half the population self-identifies as Hispanic or Latino. The two million-plus residents of New Mexico inhabit a vast 121,412 square miles ranging from glaciated peaks to low desert. New Mexico is unified by its rivers and roads that cross-jurisdictional and cultural boundaries. Never are these unifying features more pronounced than in the face of a disaster. The health of watersheds and rivers defines the wildfire and flood impacts for communities downstream and the aquifers beneath. Investing in watersheds and infrastructure is key to making New Mexico more resilient to disasters.

In recent years, New Mexico has experienced increasingly severe and large wildfires. The Las Conchas fire of 2011 broke the record for the largest fire in state history when a total of 156,000 acres burned. Just one year later, in 2012, the Whitewater/Baldy Complex Fire burned over 297,000 acres. The state also experienced four additional large wildfire events between 2011 and 2013 with significant impacts on local communities.

The impacts of these wildfires have created secondary hazards such as burn scars that have multiplying effects downstream during flood events. Lack of vegetation in burn scar areas results in otherwise normal rain events causing flash flooding. Prior wildfires have destabilized more than 24 watersheds and have threatened the water supplies of communities within or adjacent to those watersheds. Watersheds damaged by fire, in particular, take many years to recover and require significant restoration activities. Post-fire flooding events create additional damage to the already scarred landscape, and subsequent impacts include an increase in invasive species and erosion, resulting in extensive damage to flood control infrastructure, residences, and businesses.

New Mexico is eligible to compete in the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) due to the following Presidential Disaster Declarations identified as qualified disasters: 1962, 4047, 4079, 4147, 4148, 4151, and 4152. These disasters resulted from severe storms and flooding events, with one due to a massive severe winter storm and extreme cold temperatures. The flood events manifested during rainfalls that exacerbated the impacts of poor watershed protections and the high intensity wildfires due to the unhealthy state of our forests.

In this application, the state is targeting jurisdictions most impacted by the qualified disasters for resilience activities including: the unincorporated areas of Cibola, McKinley, and Sierra counties and the Native American communities of Acoma Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, the Navajo Nation, Santa Clara Pueblo, and Santo Domingo Pueblo.

The State's approach to build resilience is trifold; prioritizing watershed health, improving transportation infrastructure, and revitalizing the economy. These priorities will advance resilience and mitigate the impacts of future disasters.

Factor 1 – Capacity

General Management

The Office of the Governor has selected the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to apply on behalf of the State to the NDRC. The application for Phase 1 is prepared jointly by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), and the Office of the Governor. DFA has sufficient management capacity to administer additional federal funds and projects. In fiscal year 2013, DFA managed \$12,000,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$42,000,000 in State capital outlay funds and \$19,000,000 in other funding sources. Approximately 70% of these funds were used for community infrastructure projects¹.

DFA has six complimentary divisions: the Office of the Secretary, the State Budget Division (SBD), the Board of Finance Division (BOF), the Financial Control Division (FCD), the Local Government Division (LGD), and the Program Support Division (PSD). These divisions have internal control processes with adequate checks and balances to ensure state and federal procurement regulations are followed. In addition to these controls, DFA has quality assurance practices in place, providing departmental monitoring and auditing.

New Mexico statute designates DFA as the coordinating agency for state and federally funded programs for local community infrastructure development². Additionally, DFA collectively has decades of experience managing infrastructure projects throughout the state. New projects are added continually throughout the year, allowing DFA to maintain staff capacity with the knowledge, skills and abilities to quickly launch and implement new programs while retaining the management oversight required for quality assurance. Furthermore, the Office of

¹ 2013 DFA Audit Report

² Section 11-6-2 NMSA 1978

³ State of New Mexico Executive Order 2013-006, Establishing Uniform Funding Criteria and Grant Management

the Governor provides oversight of grant management across agencies and established uniform monitoring requirements under State of New Mexico Executive Order 2013-006³.

Should the State be successful in receiving an award, the DFA team will hire additional project management staff to assist with the grant management. DFA will develop NDRC project-specific internal and external management processes, including manuals for implementation and monitoring. DFA will use the state's CDBG implementation process as the "chassis" upon which the NDRC project management plan will be built. This will ensure that provisions and regulations will be followed throughout the life of a potential grant.

DFA coordinates each infrastructure project with a variety of stakeholders, which include local elected officials, sub-recipients, fiscal agents or professional grant managers such as regional councils of government, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, design professionals, and general contractors. Infrastructure projects for CDBG all require adequate agency review prior to breaking ground. To determine that all appropriate agencies have reviewed the project and all regulatory issues cleared satisfactorily, DFA coordinates with the DHSEM, Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), the Department of Game and Fish (DGF), soil and water conservation districts, the Environment Department (NMED), State Parks, the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS), chambers of commerce, emergency management services, the Department of Transportation (DOT) and others as necessary. DFA consults with Native American nations, Tribes and pueblos if projects are proposed in their jurisdiction.

Technical Capacity

³ State of New Mexico Executive Order 2013-006, Establishing Uniform Funding Criteria and Grant Management and Oversight Requirements for Grants of State Capital Outlay Appropriations By State Agencies to Other Entities

The State is planning to partner with the following communities as they are eligible under the criteria identified in the Notice of Funding Announcement: Acoma Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, the Navajo Nation, Santa Clara Pueblo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, and the unincorporated areas of Cibola, McKinley, and Sierra Counties. As previously mentioned, these communities constitute the “target areas” of the state for this application. These governmental entities accepted the State’s invitation to participate in Phase 1 and will serve as partners should the State receive an invitation to participate in Phase 2.

With the State’s approach addressing issues across sectors, state agencies and partners will draw on their extensive backgrounds in working across disciplines to create solutions. The State will create a resilience-working group to serve as the coordination body for the NDRC during Phase 2 and beyond. This working group would ensure that best available science, partner capacity considerations, and best practices for quality project design are utilized during project development. The State does not foresee challenges to having partners enter or exit the competition as the priorities identified have similarities across the eligible communities; the approach is not contingent on any single partner.

Should the State be successful in receiving approval for project ideas, the State and community partners will be in a position to quickly initiate the grant and eligible activities. Planning is underway by the State to marshal resources to support the execution of Phase 2 and a potential award. Proposed projects will be subject to environmental management review that includes Federal Emergency Management Agency regional staff, the State Historic Preservation Division, the Tribal Environmental Officer, and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer as appropriate. DHSEM is experienced in confirming cost effectiveness and environmental

compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and will supplement DFA's capacity to undertake reviews.

Community Engagement

The State will approach potential partners for letters of intent to participate prior to the Phase 1 application deadline. For example, the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land have agreed to enter into a partnership with the State for the NDRC.

The State has expertise in conducting outreach and productive engagements with a variety of stakeholders, including vulnerable populations. The Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) and DFA are jointly leading citizen participation efforts for the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan Process, coordinating closely with the Office of the Governor. They are building on the success of public engagement during the 2011-2015⁴ process that incorporated feedback from a variety of stakeholders including groups such as veterans, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

New Mexico's vulnerable populations are represented at the State level by the mandates of 18 State agencies. Phase 2 project design will include coordination among these state agencies to identify leveraging opportunities and ensure consistency with initiatives serving vulnerable populations. The State will solicit input from the multitude of community-based organizations and service providers dedicated to improving the lives of our vulnerable populations. DFA will assign a liaison to work with representatives of these organizations and agencies, incorporating their feedback as appropriate.

⁴ http://www.housingnm.org/assets/content/Library/Consolidated_Plan_2011-2015_FINAL.pdf

DFA proposes to replicate the process used to reach vulnerable populations during our Comprehensive Plan outreach. The State developed electronic surveys and information bulletins that were disseminated through DFA and MFA's e-contact listing, which includes local elected officials, municipal leaders, councils of governments, and the New Mexico Planning Team (members of the housing industry). The State requested that these entities pass the survey results to their constituents using their respective networks including municipal employees, senior and community centers, libraries, and local community advocacy groups.

DFA possesses a depth of experience in analyzing racial and economic disparities and addressing these issues through targeted programing. A broad range of demographic information is gathered and analyzed annually by DFA and MFA⁵. These include data collected from various federal and state sources and annual survey results from the "State of New Mexico Housing and Community Development Survey". Prospective trends and patterns of anticipated growth assist in the development of annual action plans for DFA and MFA. This data is reviewed with the governing boards of both agencies, and has been used to determine funding priorities for future projects. The CDBG program requires that potential subrecipients gather significant data at the household level and include this data in their project application. This data includes race, ethnicity, income level, female head of household, and disability status. DFA staff are experienced in vetting applications for this criteria.

In an effort to prepare communities for disasters, the Governor has designated and appointed members to a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The SERC and its activities are coordinated and facilitated by DHSEM. The SERC in turn appoints Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). In addition, the SERC supervises and coordinates the

⁵ State of New Mexico, Five-Year Consolidated Plan, III. Demographic and Economic Profile

activities of the LEPCs, establishes procedures for receiving and processing public requests for information collected under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and reviews local emergency response plans. There are currently active LEPCs in 30 counties.

DHSEM also supports the Local Preparedness Program by providing technical assistance to staff of local emergency management programs throughout the state. The Local Preparedness Program provides technical assistance to build and sustain core capabilities in disaster planning and mitigation through the development of exercises and risk assessments. These two programs have enhanced community preparedness for disasters.

Regional Capacity

The State understands that the complexity of the issues faced and the scale of disaster recovery warrants an organization that will focus on this effort. The State will establish the aforementioned inter-agency resilience working group during Phase 2 to serve as the multi-entity organization. DHSEM will serve as the subject matter lead agency, facilitating the resilience working group. The State may also consider utilizing existing committees, councils and task forces, such as the Drought Task Force, for supplemental coordination. As the managing agency, DFA will retain its programmatic and fiscal policy development and oversight responsibilities for any grants or projects under this effort as required by statute.

In May 2012, Governor Martinez signed Executive Order 2012-006 declaring a drought emergency and convening the Drought Task Force. This forum meets quarterly and serves as the venue for tracking the impacts of drought within the state. Since 2012, the Task Force has continued addressing the statewide problem of ongoing drought by enhancing coordination and reducing redundancies in actions. For example, in January 2013, the Task Force authored an

assessment report of the impacts and status of actions across sectors in response to drought⁶. This served as a springboard for planning future response actions and shaped the direction of Task Force leadership.

The State's approach to resilience will balance serving local needs and addressing vulnerabilities regionally. Investments in watershed health, improved transportation infrastructure, and economic revitalization will not only benefit individuals in the target areas but in adjacent communities as well. The State anticipates investments to yield more options for transit and mobility, particularly benefiting vulnerable populations.

Factor 2 – Need

Unmet Needs

The unmet disaster recovery needs within the target areas are significant across sectors. The following communities have unmet disaster recovery needs in the category of permanent infrastructure damage according to FEMA project worksheets from qualified disasters: Acoma Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, the Navajo Nation, Santa Clara Pueblo, and Santo Domingo Pueblo. Although any single community referenced above meets the minimum required geography for this competition, the State is collecting information on the unincorporated areas of Cibola, McKinley, and Sierra counties regarding their unmet recovery needs in the category of environmental degradation due to qualified disasters. Information that may provide a more comprehensive picture of unmet disaster recovery needs will yield the most impactful disaster resilience approach.

Most Impacted and Distressed

⁶ Drought Task Force Impact Assessment Report

The Native American communities included as target areas meet the “Most Impacted” threshold criteria having incurred in excess of \$2 million in permanent infrastructure damage during a single qualified disaster as evidenced by the FEMA project worksheets. These communities are federally recognized tribes and therefore meet the criterion of a federal target area under the “distressed” threshold⁷.

The unincorporated areas of Cibola and McKinley counties meet the economic revitalization criterion for the “Most Impacted” threshold based on data furnished by the DWS. All three unincorporated areas - Cibola, McKinley, and Sierra counties - meet the requirements in the environmental degradation category for “Most Impacted” based on engineering reports published following qualified flood disasters. McKinley County qualifies as a fragile area per the threshold definition in “Distressed” based on available data. The State is currently researching data sources that may qualify Cibola and Sierra under the prior environmental distress category for “Distressed.”

The State will utilize a comprehensive risk approach, drawing on best available science and data, during the Phase 2 project design. The data collection conducted in coordination with communities and state agencies during Phase 1 yielded valuable information on post-disaster needs. The State anticipates that intensive consultations with stakeholders during Phase 2 will produce innovative projects addressing local, regional and statewide resilience needs. By working closely with the OSE, the State Historic Preservation Officer, DHSEM, NMED, and EMNRD, along with other partners the State will undertake a science-based risk approach to project activity design.

Response to Questions

⁷ <http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/text/idc012540.pdf>

The State is utilizing a multi-hazard approach to address vulnerabilities to floods and wildfires. Although six of the seven Presidentially Declared Disasters were for flooding, flood impacts were intensified by wildfire damage and the effects of the ongoing statewide drought. Based on the vulnerability assessment conducted as part of the State's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2013, the following goals were set around natural hazard mitigation that are relevant to the State's approach for the NDRC:

- Reduce the number of injuries due to natural hazards;
- Reduce the number of fatalities from natural hazards;
- Reduce the amount of property damage, both public and private, from natural hazards; and
- Shorten recovery time for both community function and the natural environment after natural hazards.

The three highest priority statewide mitigation projects identified in the State's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will reduce risk in the wildland urban interface and improve watershed health:

1. Increase the number of "Fire Adapted" communities – a fire adapted community incorporates people, buildings, businesses, infrastructure, cultural resources, and natural areas into the effort to prepare for the effects of wildland fire;
2. Reduce combustible fuel around critical facilities – this initiative aims to establish a defensible perimeter around State-owned infrastructure to reduce threats of wildfire; and
3. Improve forest/watershed health – these actions mitigate the effects of drought and make forests less susceptible to wildfires.

Phase 1 data collection is ongoing and a number of data sources are being utilized as best available data to frame the State's approach. The State expects to receive community input from jurisdictions included as target areas.

The landscape of insurance for public and private buildings varies community to community. However, all three unincorporated county areas participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Factor 3 – Approach

Stakeholder Consultation

Since the publication of the NOFA, the State has engaged stakeholders in targeted consultations to support the framing process. The lead agencies, DHSEM, the Office of the Governor, and DFA facilitated a series of planning calls with all disaster affected units of government from the qualified disasters including state agencies, counties, and Native American communities. These discussions presented the context of the NDRC and identified opportunities for stakeholder participation.

DHSEM, DFA, and the Office of the Governor hosted two inter-agency coordination calls, both in November 2014, attended by 10-13 State agencies. These calls served to organize a path forward to respond to the NOFA. In November and December of 2014, DHSEM emailed and called all counties and cities that experienced a qualified disaster to discuss their potential eligibility. Once new tribal leadership was confirmed in January, DHSEM sent letters to each disaster affected Native American community. The materials distributed included a comprehensive letter detailing the threshold requirements and an invitation to participate in the threshold analysis. Although only a quarter of communities were responsive, DHSEM worked

closely with State agencies to gather data to qualify as many communities as possible under the thresholds.

During January and February 2015, DHSEM attended in-person meetings with five Native American communities and facilitated conference calls with six municipalities. These interactions centered on establishing minimum criteria to meet the threshold requirements and also presented the initial state disaster resilience concept. Each threshold characteristic was discussed at length with community staff to gain an understanding of current needs and challenges to resilience. In particular, data was provided on contamination sites and inquiries were made about vulnerabilities to environmental impacts during disaster events. Feedback from these consultations was shared with the inter-agency team and incorporated into the proposal development process.

The State posted the required application components for public comment for a 15 day period and will host two public hearings between February and early March.

During individual consultations with jurisdictions, DHSEM staff alerted community leaders that intensive consultations on project design would take place in the coming months should the State be invited to submit a Phase 2 application. The State expects ongoing discussions and data sharing to occur while the application is pending adjudication. The leadership of target area jurisdictions are in the process of identifying partners and stakeholders to engage with during Phase 2.

The consultation process to date has been fruitful with the State receiving positive feedback from each target area jurisdiction on the approach of watershed health, improved transportation infrastructure, and economic revitalization. During the consultations, each jurisdiction revealed the potential impacts of investments in these priority areas. In addition, the

State gathered input from agencies that implement programming around these priority areas in order to refine the approach. As a result, the State views the approach as having the maximum potential advancement to resilience within and across the target areas' boundaries.

Ideas/Concept

Unifying New Mexico with investments across transportation, environmental and economic sectors will advance the resilience of the populace to disasters. The State will build upon consultations completed in Phase 1 and enter Phase 2 soliciting project ideas from a wide range of community stakeholders. The State will examine co-benefits and advancement of community development objectives in concert with stakeholders to ensure broad impacts of resilience ideas.

At this stage, the State has identified general activities that may be crystallized during Phase 2. The potential economic revitalization initiatives include assistance to small businesses in most impacted and distressed jurisdictions and community-identified concepts. Initiatives may include:

- Job diversification initiatives; and
- Re-training or new training for newly developed economies

The State will consider a range of watershed health activities that will have direct benefits to target areas as well as co-benefits to surrounding communities. These measures may include:

- Cut Skid-Deck – removal and organization of woody debris;
- Biomass – utilization of woody biomass to improve forest health and create jobs;
- Mastication – reduction of vegetation with burn potential;
- Installation and cleaning of check dams – targeted for upper reaches of burn scar watersheds to prevent large debris from moving downstream; and

- Stabilization of soils – targeting burn scar areas to reduce the amount of sediment flows.

The transportation infrastructure investments will be a combination of community generated ideas and initiatives that cross jurisdictional lines. Investments may include:

1. Rebuilding or constructing evacuation routes and access roads;
2. Resilient drainage mitigations through new infrastructure such as bridges and properly engineered and sized culvert and storm drain systems;
3. Public traffic safety improvements; and
4. Silt removal, channelization work, aquifer protections and reservoir reestablishment.

Since jurisdictions are interconnected through the watersheds, roads, and the economy, the implementation of resilience initiatives will not be an exclusively intra-jurisdictional process. Furthermore, interdependencies across sectors and an evaluation of impacts to adjacent communities will inform the project design process in Phase 2. The State will work through the LEPCs, Preparedness Areas Programs, watershed councils, and councils of government as discussed in Factor 1.

DHSEM has made a concerted effort to increase the mitigation planning efforts throughout the State, including the Native American communities. Mitigation planning is a comprehensive approach to not only identifying the hazards that a community may face, but also to identify the actions that can be taken to reduce the impacts of disasters. Statewide there are currently 16 FEMA approved mitigation plans and an additional 23 mitigation plans in process. Four of the target area communities have mitigation plans in place (the Navajo Nation, Santa Clara Pueblo, Sierra County, and McKinley County). Cibola County, Cochiti Pueblo, and Santo Domingo Pueblo have mitigation plans pending approval, with approval expected to be granted by December 2015.

Factor 4 – Leverage

Outcomes

The State is prioritizing long-term investments to address needs in watershed health, improved transportation infrastructure, and economic revitalization. This multi-faceted approach will mitigate risk and enhance the resilience of the target communities, reducing their vulnerabilities to future disasters. The impacts of the qualified disasters on target area communities have been significant across all sectors. Based on consultations conducted with communities impacted by the floods, the State learned that community development and disaster recovery objectives share many of the same priorities. Addressing risks associated with disaster events is key to advancing resilience across the state.

The general activities supporting this approach are viewed to have sustaining or permanent impacts with numerous co-benefits. For example, the transportation infrastructure solutions identified as potential activities will facilitate evacuations during flood events and increase access for emergency responders. Co-benefits of these solutions include increased commerce, workforce mobility, and tourism across jurisdictions.

The initiatives proposed will undergo comprehensive environmental reviews and intensive financial planning. The State will integrate the utilization of community assets into the planning of projects, maximizing the partnership between the State and target communities. For example, the State will incorporate workforce planning and Section 3 businesses into design for projects within the economic revitalization initiative.

If selected for Phase 2, the State will establish metrics and benchmarks to closely track the success of projects in reaching identified outcomes and the implementation of the State's approach to resilience.

- The successful outcome for economic revitalization initiatives will be each community's ability to survive and mitigate the disruption and loss of livelihoods during disaster events through the strengthening of local economies.
- The successful outcomes for watershed restoration initiatives will be:
 - Reduction in tree density resulting in lower intensity burns, leading to decreased tree mortality and less large debris entering arroyos during flood events;
 - Reduction in sediment from burn scars, resulting in less damage caused by peak flows during flood events; and
 - Increase in soil stability and nutrient retention contributing to quicker recovery and re-growth, resulting in more resilient forests and watershed ecosystems.
- The successful outcomes for transportation infrastructure activities will be a multiplication of evacuation routes during disaster events and increased access to vulnerable communities for emergency responders.

Leverage Narrative

The State is confident that the target communities have the capacity to implement projects to increase their resilience to disasters. It was evident during consultations that there are numerous community stakeholders that may serve as partners on their path to increased resilience. The resilience working group will monitor implementation, evaluate the sustainability of the projects, and propose alterations to the approach as necessary. Secondary coordination bodies may include the State Drought Task Force, Regional Watershed Councils, and council of governments.

One key group of partners for the State during the NDRC will be the Rio Grande Water Fund (RGWF). More than 40 federal, state, local, Tribal, and community stakeholders are

participating in the RGWF Advisory Board which released the Comprehensive Plan for Wildfire and Water Source Protection in July 2014. The Plan identifies short and long-term actions necessary to address numerous aspects of watershed rehabilitation. The State's approach shares many of the same priorities and strategies for building resilience as those presented in the Comprehensive Plan.

New Mexico is unique in terms of insurance coverage for jurisdictions as only some of the target communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). While the State currently has 103 communities that participate in the NFIP (including the three counties within the target areas), there are 10 counties that do not have Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Due to low population in these 10 counties, floodplain mapping has not been conducted by FEMA. Four of these counties participate in the NFIP and use the best available data for land use planning and permitting (as allowed in the NFIP). Through a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) effort between FEMA, DHSEM and the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Earth Data Analysis Center, these 10 counties will have Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of all available land use data. The effort has produced interactive web-based mapping for six of the ten counties. DHSEM also conducts outreach to communities that do not currently participate in the NFIP through the role of the State Floodplain Coordinator.

NMSA 1978, Sections 3-18-6 and 3-18-7, require communities to designate special flood hazard areas and mudslide hazards and require NFIP communities to have ordinances in place to comply with the various NFIP requirements, leading to mitigation of flood losses. In 2001, the New Mexico Legislature enacted statutory revisions requiring all communities that participate in the NFIP to have a Certified Floodplain Manager on staff to review development permits in flood hazard areas. In 2003, the Legislature enacted legislation supported by the New Mexico

Floodplain Managers Association requiring any community with identified flood hazards to adopt a floodplain management ordinance and join the NFIP. This legislation reduced future flood damage in those communities and enabled property owners to purchase flood insurance.

Through investments in watershed health, watersheds will be stabilized reducing the risk of downstream and aquifer damages. The co-benefits of the State's three-pronged proposal create equities that may contribute toward its financing from stakeholders. There are cost savings that may result including:

- Investment in watershed health will result in reduction of emergency response and recovery costs;
- Investment in economic revitalization will reduce the loss of livelihoods and public assistance required for households and businesses; and
- Investment in transportation infrastructure will result in improved evacuation routes and the protection of lives and property, enhanced emergency responder safety and effectiveness during emergency situations, and increased connectivity for delivery of needed supplies during a State of emergency, decreased fuel costs, and increased spending in local economies.

These investments may result in a reduction of demands on state funds for emergency response and disaster recovery. Cost savings during future flood events may free-up resources for disaster risk reduction projects, which would have previously been allocated to responses. It is also expected that gains in watershed health will improve water quality, resulting in fewer resources needed to treat water.

Leverage Commitments

The State anticipates receiving leverage commitments from a variety of stakeholders for both intra and inter community initiatives. Based on discussions with target area communities, local partners are likely to commit leverage funds during the Phase 2 project design.

Factor 5 – Commitment

The State mobilized significant resources in 2014 following seven disaster declarations in three years. The 2014 legislative capital outlay bill⁸ was signed into law on March 11, 2014 and included \$89 million to address critical water infrastructure needs with the goal of promoting long-term economic growth. The types of projects are supported by these funds and include dam repairs, clean water access, water facilities, watershed health, and water infrastructure investments.

Of the \$89 million appropriated for critical water infrastructure projects, \$6.2 million was earmarked to restore and rehabilitate vulnerable watersheds throughout the state⁹. The funding will treat approximately 7,700 acres of 14 high-priority watershed areas on public lands through 14 geographically targeted projects. While the impacts of such a wide-reaching initiative will have co-benefits throughout the target areas, \$303,210 will be programmed directly in Cibola County, which is one of the target areas.

As mentioned previously, State of New Mexico Executive Order 2012-006 convened the formal inter-agency coordination mechanism on drought emergencies, the Drought Task Force¹⁰. Since June 2012, the Task Force has met quarterly to report the status of drought in the State and identify actions to mitigate the impacts of drought.

⁸ Laws 2014 Senate Bill 163

⁹http://www.governor.State.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/June_27_PR___Watershed.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.nmdrought.State.nm.us/PDF/Drought_Declaration_2012.pdf

In addition, modifications were made to the NFIP that will benefit communities downstream of wildfires that burned on federal land. In July 2012, Congress modified the NFIP to allow for a waiver to the 30-day waiting period for filing an NFIP claim when there is a case where a wildfire burned on federal land upstream of a community. Previously, a new policy holder was required to wait 30 days after initiating their NFIP policy to make a claim.

On September 15, 2014, DHSEM executed a sub-grant of \$77,529 to the State Department of Agriculture (NMDA) for Watershed Health and Drought Education. This project includes the design and dissemination of public awareness campaigns about actions individuals may take to improve watershed health and minimize the impacts of drought. This project is currently underway, and NMDA estimates that 100% of residents in New Mexico will benefit directly or indirectly from the impacts of improved watershed health and drought mitigation advanced by this project.

DHSEM has executed two sub-grant agreements since the NOFA release on October 15, 2014 under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that do not directly benefit the target areas but have built resilience in other communities. A sub-grant of \$83,899 for Southern Sandoval County Arroyo and Flood Control Authority supports early warning systems for flooding. The second sub-grant of \$157,333 for Lincoln County funds community outreach on mitigating the impacts of wildfires.